

### Amendments to the Claims

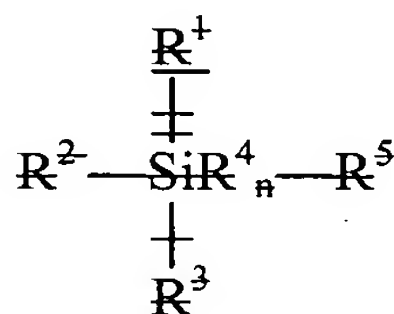
1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a diene-based elastomer/filler composite which comprises

(A) polymerizing at least one conjugated diene hydrocarbon selected from isoprene, 1,3-butadiene and mixtures thereof or copolymerizing at least one conjugated diene selected from isoprene and 1,3-butadiene, and mixtures thereof, styrene in an organic solvent and in the presence of at least one treated particulate filler ~~selected from at least one of~~ wherein said particulate filler is a precipitated silica, and ~~modified carbon black~~

(B) terminating the polymerization reaction; wherein said elastomer composite contains from about 10 to about 100 phr of said filler;

wherein said treated filler is treated by

(1) first treating said filler to silanize said filler with an organosilane ~~of the~~ general formula (I):



~~wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are equal or individually and independently selected from CH<sub>3</sub>, H, Cl and (OR<sup>6</sup>) and R<sup>6</sup> is individually selected from methyl, ethyl and propyl radicals, R<sup>4</sup> is a CH<sub>2</sub> radical, n is an integer of zero or one, wherein if n is one then R<sup>4</sup> is selected from an aryl radical, an alkenylaryl radical, an alkenylarylalkyl radical or an alkylaryl radical, and R<sup>5</sup> is selected from an (CH=CH<sub>2</sub>) radical, an acrylate or a methacrylate radical]~~ followed by

(2) treating said silanized filler with said a polymerization initiator as ~~selected from butyl lithium [[,]] and tetramethyl ethylenediamine, or a peroxide initiator of~~

~~organic solvent anionic or radicalar polymerization, as the case may be, diene based monomer polymerizations;~~

wherein said organosilane is selected from the group consisting of

3-acryloxypropyl-trimethoxy silane, methacryloxymethyl trimethoxy silane, methacryloxymethyl triethoxy silane, methacryloxymethyl trimethyl silane, allyltriethoxysilane, allyltrimethoxysilane, 5-(biscycloheptenyl)triethoxysilane, 3-butenyltriethoxysilane, [2-(3-cyclohexenyl)ethyl] trimethoxysilane, 3-(cyclopentadienylpropyl)triethoxysilane, 3-acryloxypropyl-methyldichlorosilane, 3-acryloxypropyl-dimethylmethoxysilane, 3-acryloxypropyl-trichlorosilane, allylmethyldichlorosilane, allyldimethylsilazane, 5-(biscycloheptenyl)dimethylchlorosilane, 3-butenylmethyldichlorosilane, [2-(3-cyclohexenyl)ethyl] dimethylchlorosilane, [2-(3-cyclohexenyl)ethyl] trichlorosilane, 3-(cyclopentadienyl)trimethylsilane, and styrylethyl trimethoxysilane.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Original) An elastomer/filler composite prepared by the method of claim 1.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Original) A rubber composition comprised of said elastomer/filler composite of claim 10 and at least one additional elastomer selected from polymers of isoprene, 1,3-butadiene

and mixtures thereof and copolymers of isoprene, 1,3-butadiene and mixtures thereof with styrene.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) An article of manufacture having at least one component of a rubber composition comprised of the elastomer/filler composite of claim 10.

17. (Original) A tire having at least one component of a rubber composition comprised of the elastomer/filler composite of claim 10.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)